



# JOHN LINDER

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE FOR GEORGIA

## Spring 2007

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## TOWN HALL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Let me start by saying what a pleasure it is to have so many of you back as constituents. It has been about 4 years since Walton, Barrow and Newton counties were removed from my district in what I'm sure seems like a regular redistricting process, and it is certainly a pleasure to have those counties returned to the new Seventh Congressional District.

Communicating with each of you is a priority for me – whether it is on the street, through letters, or in town hall meetings in the district. In fact, I spent much of the President's Day District Work Period traveling to the newly acquired counties and met with many of the elected officials and business leaders. We discussed a variety of issues that are important to you and your community, and it provided an excellent opportunity for me to learn more about the Seventh District. In addition, I have already established a Community Outreach Program and representatives from my office have been out in the district meeting with constituents in person already to discuss ideas and concerns that you have.

I also hosted my first 2007 telephone Town Hall Meeting in January and the participation was tremendous. Telephone meetings are an additional, convenient way to get together as an entire district, and we can all do it without driving through traffic. I will continue to host in-person town hall meetings, but these telephone meetings increase the frequency in which we can get together.

The dates and times of the upcoming tele-town hall meetings are as follows:

**March — Telephone Town Hall Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 28 – 7:30 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**Toll Free Number: 1-888-989-6513**  
**Passcode: "Linder Town Hall"**

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**May — Telephone Town Hall Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 30 – 7:30 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**Toll Free Number: 1-888-989-6513**  
**Passcode: "Linder Town Hall"**

I look forward to hearing from you at one of these meetings, and I hope that you will also read through this newsletter and let me know of your thoughts. The enclosed survey can be faxed or mailed back to me so that I know your views.

Sincerely,

## THE WAR ON TERROR

In January, President Bush announced a new strategy for Iraq. While a troop “surge” of 21,500 personnel has gathered most of the attention, the President has also outlined an approach that includes an increase in the responsibility and coordination by the Iraqi government, and job creation programs in the Baghdad and al-Anbar provinces so that Iraqis can work instead of fight. Additionally, the President’s new plan allows U.S. forces to take proactive steps to neutralize insurgents *and* members of so-called “death squads.”

In November of last year, my office received an e-mail from a soldier stationed in Iraq whose words were very telling of the concerns of U.S. military personnel. He pleaded with me not to undo all of the good work that those men and women had achieved over the past three and-a-half years. The enemy, he said, was waiting with anticipation for our withdrawal. More recently, I was told of a conversation with a soldier who had been through two tours in Iraq. His belief was that the President’s plan was going to work, and that the insurgency and al-Qaeda terrorists would be forced to flee their strongholds. We just needed to give the plan a chance.

I do not support legislation that stops financial support for our troops, as some Members of Congress have suggested. We should, instead, do whatever it takes to *support* our troops and *support* their mission. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, nine primary healthcare centers (PHCs) have been built in Iraq, 15 hospital rehabilitation projects have been completed, 808 schools have been built, 92 fire stations are under construction and an emergency dispatch system similar to the “911” service is now operational, covering 12 million Iraqi citizens in 15 cities. This does not prove that we are “losing” the war – it proves that we are making a positive difference in Iraq, and I will continue to support that effort.

The War on Terror must remain a priority. Last Congress, I led efforts in the House to prevent terrorist attacks on the U.S. involving nuclear and biological weapons. It has been over five years since 9/11 and I fear the lessons we learned then fade each day. We have thousands of airline security employees standing at airports right where our enemies know they will be. We must also focus on the safety of our railways, ports, subways, and food supply, not to mention the catastrophic threats of bioterrorism and nuclear devices.

My position is that there are a finite number of people willing to carry out a terrorist attack, and finding them must be our top counterterrorism priority. The only responsibility of our enemies is to conceive of new ways to attack us – and we need to focus on finding these people – because we cannot cover the expense of defending against all the devices that could do us harm at an infinite number of locations.



## TAX RELIEF AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

On the subject of taxes, I have already signed on to a letter to the President stating that I will not support tax increases on the taxpayer. The letter urged the President to veto any bill with tax increases on working Americans and businesses (because Speaker Pelosi has not ruled out tax increases to finance spending and the Democrat Majority’s PAYGO budget rules will require an offsetting tax increase for every new tax cut).

I support a budget that seeks to make permanent the tax relief that President Bush and the Republican Majority were able to enact between 2001-2006. In addition, I believe that the President’s proposed budget is a good starting point, as it seeks to bring the Federal budget into balance by FY2012, five years from now, and it seeks to slow-down the rapid growth in entitlement spending, which is the primary reason that Federal spending has now reached almost \$3 trillion. I have said many times and it is worth repeating: our current fiscal policy is not sustainable. And I again point to the 2007 Government Accountability Office report stating that if we maintain current levels of discretionary spending, and revenues remain constant as a share of GDP, then by the year 2040 the entire Federal revenue stream will not be enough to pay just the interest on the debt.

I continue to believe that until we change our nation’s mechanism of raising revenue, our fiscal future will continue to be at risk. Under my FairTax bill, which will abolish all income, capital gains, and payroll taxes, and replace them with a revenue neutral, one time only, national sales tax, the number of people paying into Social Security and Medicare more than doubles from 158 million workers to 300 million Americans and 51 million foreign tourists and visitors. This dramatic expansion of the tax base will provide for the long-term solvency of the Social Security and Medicare programs currently facing enormous long-term budgetary shortfalls.

## FAIRTAX CONTINUES TO GAIN SUPPORT

While control of Congress has changed, the FairTax continues to gain support. A decisive election like the one last November has an uncanny way of focusing people on the real reasons that their constituents sent them to Washington. Given the broad nationwide support of the voters for the FairTax, this refocusing is very good news for the FairTax cause.

The opportunity for the FairTax this year was obvious on the very first day of the 110th Congress. I re-introduced H.R. 25 on that day, and I did it with more than twice as many original co-sponsors than we had for its introduction in the last Congress. Even more exciting, I was able to introduce the FairTax as a bipartisan bill for the first time since 2003. Congressman Dan Boren, a Democrat from Oklahoma, joined me and 23 other colleagues from 11 different states to re-introduce the bill on January 4, 2007.

This record-setting first day of the 110th Congress was only the beginning. Today, just months into this Congress, the FairTax and its supporters have amassed an extraordinary 57 co-sponsors from 24 states. To put this accomplishment in perspective, we never had this many co-sponsors in the 107th Congress or the 108th Congress, and in the last Congress, the 109th, the FairTax reached 57 co-sponsors only after 21 months of hard work by volunteers across the country.

I encourage you to make particular note of the FairTax co-sponsors who have never before co-sponsored the legislation. Among these names are freshmen Congressmen Timothy Walberg from Michigan and David Davis from Tennessee and veteran Congressmen Dave Weldon of Florida and Ed Whitfield of Kentucky. Another new name on the FairTax that I know you will want to notice is long-time supporter but first-time co-sponsor, former Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert.

Of course, the success we are seeing on Capitol Hill is simply a reflection of the enthusiasm for the FairTax that is growing across the entire nation. The FairTax will be the next grassroots revolution. The FairTax is a huge idea that will take a great deal of passion to enact. Everyone knows that the income tax code is complicated and oppressive, but not everyone knows that the FairTax will free them from this intrusive burden. I hope that you will visit my FairTax website at [HTTP://LINDERFAIRTAX.HOUSE.GOV](http://LINDERFAIRTAX.HOUSE.GOV) to learn more about this important legislation.



## IMMIGRATION REFORM

America is known for its tradition of offering its shores as a refuge of opportunity to immigrants. We look fondly at the images of Ellis Island and marvel at the wonders in architecture, music, and science given to this country by its immigrant population. We also welcome those whose own lands are ravished by war and famine. Too many, though, cannot enjoy or share the blessings afforded to this country because of a broken immigration system. The Federal government must work toward the expeditious inclusion of those who wait years for the American dream.

The U.S., however, is also a land governed by the rule of law. I believe that it is wildly inappropriate to grant amnesty to illegal aliens. The very notion that we have to encourage individuals to “start” playing by the rules supports the argument that illegal aliens are breaking our laws. The act of forgiving flagrant violations of our laws simply because penalties are too cumbersome to enforce only serves to undermine America’s rule of law.

I vigorously supported a number of bills that sought to change the way we as a nation handle security at our borders, as well as the way we deal with those who are living here unlawfully. For example, I supported several measures that would have ended the practice of granting automatic U.S. citizenship to babies born from mothers who are residing here illegally. I also supported the Secure Fence Act, which will strengthen virtually all security measures along the U.S.-Mexico border, including the construction of a fence and the use of additional unmanned aerial vehicles, sensors, and cameras.

I remain hopeful that the 110th Congress will craft meaningful anti-illegal immigration measures. We should look to secure our border first. A nation that does not have control over its borders does not have control over its national security. We must then enact a clear strategy that consistently detains, punishes, and deports those who have crossed our borders and now reside in our nation without permission or invitation. We have a duty to act expeditiously and deliberately to preserve the principles of our great land, so that America will not, one day, be forced to abandon them because the crisis is beyond repair.

## CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

I hope all Seventh District high school students with an eye for art will try their hand at the annual Congressional art competition, "An Artistic Discovery." It is critical that our community encourage our students to develop whatever talents they may possess, and I am proud to encourage artistic expression through this opportunity.

I will be hosting an awards ceremony at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville on Tuesday April 10, 2007, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The winner will be invited to attend the opening of the national exhibition in the summer of 2007, at the U.S. Capitol, where his or her work will be displayed in the hall leading to the Capitol for one year.

Entries must be submitted to my Gwinnett office by March 31, 2007. For artwork guidelines, more information and a copy of the entry form, please contact Annie Valenty at (770) 232-1131.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

I always welcome comments from the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District. Please make note of my mailing address and phone numbers, or send a note through my online office.

### MAILING ADDRESS

1026 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-1007

### ONLINE OFFICE

[HTTP://LINDER.HOUSE.GOV/CONTACTJOHN](http://linder.house.gov/contactjohn)

### GEORGIA OFFICE

(770) 232-3005  
(770) 232-2909 (fax)

### WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

(202) 225-4272  
(202) 225-4696 (fax)

## OUTREACH PROGRAM

If you would like to meet with a member of my staff regarding difficulties you are experiencing with the Federal government, please contact my District Office at (770) 232-3005. My staff is also available to assist you at constituent outreach locations throughout the Seventh Congressional District at the locations and times below:

### Barrow County

Piedmont Regional Library  
189 Bell View Street  
Winder, GA 30680

April 12 (10 am-12 pm)  
May 10 (10 am-12 pm)  
June 14 (10 am-12 pm)

### Gwinnett County

Grayson Library  
700 Grayson Highway  
Grayson, GA 30017

April 4 (4 pm-6 pm)  
May 2 (4 pm-6 pm)  
June 6 (4 pm-6 pm)

### Gwinnett/Forsyth

Suwanee Library  
361 Main Street  
Suwanee, GA 30024

April 12 (5:30 pm-7:30 pm)  
May 10 (5:30 pm-7:30 pm)  
June 14 (5:30 pm-7:30 pm)

### Newton County

Newton County Library  
7116 Floyd Street, N.E.  
Covington, GA 30014

April 18 (1 pm -3 pm)  
May 16 (1 pm -3 pm)  
June 20 (1 pm -3 pm)

### Walton County

Monroe-Walton Library  
217 West Spring Street  
Monroe, GA 30655

April 18 (10 am-12 pm)  
May 16 (10 am-12 pm)  
June 20 (10 am-12 pm)